

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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TROOPERS FOCUS ON SAFETY DURING FOURTH

MONTGOMERY — Troopers anticipate heavy traffic on the state's roadways throughout the extended Fourth of July holiday weekend. All available state troopers will be on duty during the holiday travel period, and they will be watchful for speeders, drunken drivers and other traffic violators, according to Col. W.M. Coppage, Department of Public Safety director.

"Troopers will be working to ensure that roadway travel is safe and enjoyable for Alabamians and visitors to our state," said Coppage. "I encourage each motorist also to support roadway safety by driving with extreme caution and buckling up on every trip." He said a federal grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs would provide funding to enhance patrols.

During the holidays Alabama troopers will join law enforcement and traffic safety agencies throughout the state and nation in traffic safety campaigns designed to increase roadway safety through enforcement and safety education.

Troopers' increased emphasis on DUI enforcement during routine patrols and checkpoints will help support the "You Drink and Drive. You Lose. National Crackdown," a traffic safety campaign that seeks to prevent drunken driving through high-visibility DUI enforcement and public education regarding the dangers of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Troopers will concentrate patrols on heavily traveled roadways, including interstates and popular beach and vacation routes. These roadways have been designated as C.A.R.E. highways in conjunction with Operation C.A.R.E., Combined Accident Reduction Effort, a joint endeavor by state police nationwide to promote traffic safety during holiday periods.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 16 people will die in traffic crashes in Alabama during the 78-hour Independence Day period beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 3, and ending at midnight Sunday, July 6. Last year there were seven fatalities during the 102-hour Fourth of July period. Five of the crash victims were not using safety belts. None of the traffic deaths was alcohol related.

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